

**Table 38a. Standard errors on perception of job market at the time of doctoral degree completion, and benefit of doctoral degree by recent doctoral recipients by field of doctorate: 1997**

April 2002

Perception and benefit	Field of doctorate							
	All fields	Computer and mathematical sciences	Biological and agricultural sciences	Health sciences	Physical and related sciences	Social sciences	Psychology	Engineering
Total recent doctoral recipients (number).....	1,075.8	330.0	543.3	149.1	493.9	441.5	422.1	502.2
					Percent			
Job market for postdocs:								
Excellent.....	0.4	S	0.9	S	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.7
Good.....	0.6	1.8	1.2	1.9	1.6	1.3	2.0	1.2
Fair.....	0.7	1.9	1.1	2.0	1.6	2.1	2.0	1.3
Very poor.....	0.6	2.3	1.1	S	1.6	2.1	1.4	1.5
Don't know or not applicable.....	0.4	S	S	S	S	1.4	1.0	0.9
Job market for positions other than postdocs:								
Excellent.....	0.3	1.5	S	S	S	S	S	0.7
Good.....	0.5	2.1	1.0	2.2	1.1	1.4	1.7	1.3
Fair.....	0.7	2.4	1.4	2.0	1.6	2.2	2.1	1.5
Very poor.....	0.6	2.4	1.3	S	1.7	2.0	1.2	1.4
Don't know or not applicable.....	0.2	S	0.5	S	S	S	1.0	S
Doctoral degree helped:								
Begin first career.....	0.7	2.7	1.3	1.9	1.6	2.1	1.7	1.4
Further a career already started.....	0.5	2.3	1.2	2.1	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.1
Change careers.....	0.4	S	0.5	S	S	1.6	1.4	0.7
In ways not related to career.....	0.2	S	S	S	S	S	S	0.6

**KEY:** S = Suppressed due to too few cases in the estimate (fewer than 1,000 weighted cases).

**NOTES:** 'Recent doctoral recipients' are those who reported having received their doctorate between June of 1990 and 1996. Job market perception is based on a question that asked how they thought the job market was at the time of doctoral degree completion. Benefit of doctoral degree is based on a question that asked how they thought a doctoral degree would help their career. Standard errors are rounded to the nearest tenth.

Survey of Doctorate Recipients includes persons who had earned research doctorate from U.S. institutions and resided in U.S. as of April 1997.

**SOURCE:** National Science Foundation/Division of Science Resources Statistics, 1997 Survey of Doctorate Recipients